

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 3, 2007. Claims 1-8 and 12-17 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1 and 12-14 are in independent form. Claims 9 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and their recitations have been incorporated into Claims 12 and 13, which have been rewritten in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested. The canceled claims will not be further addressed herein.

The specification has been carefully reviewed and amended as to matters of form.

The Office Action objected to the disclosure on the grounds set forth in paragraph 2 of the Office Action. Applicants have carefully reviewed and amended the specification with particular attention to the points raised in the Office Action. Applicants believe the objections have been obviated and, therefore, their withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In particular, the Office Action states that Claims 9-11 (from which Claims 12 and 13 depended) “are labeled ‘methods’ for producing a stacked photovoltaic element but they recite no steps for producing the element. Instead, they only list the structural features of the element.” Applicants have carefully reviewed and amended Claims 12 and 13 to ensure that they fully comply with the requirements of Section 112, second paragraph. It is believed that the rejections of the claims has been overcome, and its withdrawal is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 and 12-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,189,917 (Okada et al.) in view of Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-150934 (Nakajima et al.).

Applicant states that Okada and the present application were commonly owned, or subject to assignment to the same person, at the time the present invention was made. Accordingly, Okada can be removed as reference against the present application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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FCHS_WS 1464162v1